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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method in a data processing system for managing a
2   request including a session identification, comprising:
3   calculating a first value based on the session
4   identification; and
5   routing the request to a server based on the first
6   value.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of
2   calculating a first value comprises performing a hash
3   function on the session identification.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of routing
2   the request to a server comprises:
3   performing a modulus function on the first value to
4   form a first integer; and
5   selecting a server based on the first integer.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the step of selecting
2   a server comprises looking up the server in a look-up
3   table using the first integer.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of routing
2   the request to a server comprises:
3   selecting a first server based on the first value;
4   determining whether the first server is functional;
5   and

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6   routing the request to the first server in response

7 to the first server being functional.

1 6.   The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2   calculating a second value based on the first value

3 in response to the first server being non-functional; and

4   routing the request to a second server based on the

5 second value.

1 7.The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining

2 whether the first server is functional comprises using a

3 look-up table.

1 8.   A method in a data processing system for routing a

2 request to one of a number of servers, comprising:

3   receiving a request including a session

4 identification;

5   performing a hash function on the session

6 identification to form a hash value;

7   performing a modulus function on the hash value to

8 form an integer; and

9   routing the request to one of the number of servers

10 based on the integer.

1 9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the integer is between

2 zero and the number of servers minus one.

1 10.   The method of claim 8, wherein the step of routing

2 the request comprises looking up the server in a look-up

3 table using the integer.

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1   11.   An apparatus for managing a request including a
2   session identification, comprising:
3   calculation means for calculating a first value
4   based on the session identification; and
5   routing means for routing the request to a server
6   based on the first value.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the calculation
2   means comprises hash means for performing a hash function
3   on the session identification.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the routing means
2   comprises:
3   modulus means for performing a modulus function on
4   the first value to form a first integer; and
5   selection means for selecting a server based on the
6   first integer.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the selection
2   means comprises table means for looking up the server in
3   a look-up table using the first integer.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the routing means
2   comprises:
3   selection means for selecting a first server based
4   on the first value;
5   determining means for determining whether the first
6   server is functional; and

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7   means for routing the request to the first server in
8   response to the first server being functional.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:
2   means for calculating a second value based on the
3   first value in response to the first server being non-
4   functional; and
5   means for routing the request to a second server
6   based on the second value.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the determining
2   means uses a look-up table.

1   18.   An apparatus for routing a request to one of a
2   number of servers, comprising:
3   a processor; and
4   a memory electrically connected to the processor,
5   the memory having stored therein a program to be executed
6   on the processor for performing:
7   ·   receiving a request including a session
8   identification;
9   performing a hash function on the session
10   identification to form a hash value;
11   performing a modulus function on the hash value
12   to form an integer; and
13   routing the request to one of the number of
14   servers based on the integer.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the integer is
2   between zero and the number of servers minus one.

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1   20.   The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the step of
2   routing the request comprises looking up the server in a
3   look-up table using the integer.

1   21.   A distributed processing system comprising:
2   a client computer;
3   a first application server;
4   a second application server;
5   a web server, connected to the client computer, the
6   first application server, and the second application
7   server, the web server for routing a request from the
8   client computer to one of the first application server
9   and the second application server; and
10   a database, connected to the first application
11 server and the second application server, for storing
12 session data associated with the request.

1   22.   The system of claim 21, wherein the web server
2   routes the request to the first application server and
3   the first application server establishes a session with
4   the client computer and generates a session
5   identification.

1   23.   The system of claim 22, wherein the first
2   application server stores the session data in the
3   database.

1   24.   The system of claim 23, wherein the web server
2   receives a second request including the session

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3   identification, performs a calculation on the session

4   identification to form a value and routes the request to

5   the second application server based on the value.

1   25.   A computer program product, in a computer readable

2   medium, for managing a request including a session

3   identification, comprising:

4   instructions for calculating a first value based on

5   the session identification; and

6   instructions for routing the request to a server

7   based on the first value.

1   26.   A computer program product, in a computer readable

2   medium, for routing a request to one of a number of

3   servers, comprising:

4   instructions for receiving a request including a

5   session identification;

6   instructions for performing a hash function on the

7   session identification to form a hash value;

8   instructions for performing a modulus function on

9   the hash value to form an integer; and

10   instructions for routing the request to one of the

11   number of servers based on the integer.